

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for total consideration given the present application. Claims 1-18 are currently pending. Claims 1-5 and 15-18 are independent. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of objected claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, 13, 14, and 15 in light of the amendment and remarks presented herein.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants appreciate that claims 1-18 are allowed except for the following formal matter. The Examiner alleges that in claims 1, 3, and 6, the terminology "the surface", appears to lack antecedent basis.

Claims 1, 3, and 6 have been amended to replace "the surface" with "a surface". Thus, at least in view of this amendment, it is respectfully requested to withdraw the objection to claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, 13, 14, and 15. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments made to claims 1, 3, and 6 do not add any new matter to the application and they are not narrowing, and are not made for a reason relating to patentability. Accordingly, it is submitted that these amendments do not give rise to estoppel and, in future analysis, claims 1, 3, and 6 are entitled to their full range of equivalents.

FORM 1449 ACKNOWLEDGMENT REQUESTED

It is noted that Applicant has not yet received initialed copy(ies) of the PTO-1449 for the present application. Applicant respectfully requests that such form be provided. Specifically, the Examiner has not considered two IDS references (WO03/029729 and JP07-265649) filed on June 1, 2006.

CONCLUSION

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Ali M. Imam Reg. No. 58,755 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.


Application No. 10/581,191
Amendment dated March 10, 2010
Reply to Office Action of January 25, 2010

Docket No.: 4633-0171PUS1

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: March 10, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

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